CLAIMS

1. A valve guide structure for supporting a stem of a valve by an inner peripheral surface of a valve guide so as to restrict moving directions of the valve, comprising a recess on the inner peripheral surface of the valve guide, said recess extending downwardly from an upper end of the valve guide along the stem of the valve so as to form a clearance between the valve guide and the stem of the valve.

2. The valve guide structure according to claim 1, wherein the recess on the valve guide has a lower end lower in position than a thinnest portion of the valve guide.

3. The valve guide structure according to claim 1, wherein an outer periphery of the valve guide is formed with an engagement groove for engagement with a stem seal to prevent intrusion of oil, the recess on the valve guide having a lower end lower in position than the engagement groove.

4. The valve guide structure according to claim 1, wherein the recess has a taper with reduced inner diameter toward a lower end thereof.

5. The valve guide structure according to claim 2, wherein the recess has a taper with reduced inner diameter toward a lower end thereof.

6. The valve guide structure according to claim 3, wherein the recess has a taper with reduced inner diameter toward a lower end thereof.